

October 12, 2017

Future of E-Rate Category 2 Funding

Liberty Community Unit #2 is a rural school K-12 district located in Liberty IL. While we are small in student enrollment (approx. 600 students), we're big on utilizing technology to enhance the learning experience for our students.

Last year was the first year we used E-Rate Category 2 funds and they were put to great use through the improvement of our internal network. Upgrading from 100M unmanaged switches to 1G managed switches and the addition of 20 new dual-band Wi-Fi access points was possible as a result and greatly improved the Internet access for students and educators.

We plan to continue to make use of this program to enhance our network to take full advantage of the new 1 gigabit Internet connection added in July 2017 that was facilitated by E-Rate Category 1 funding. Additional switches, access points and cabling are necessary to support new 1:1 devices being added to the network. Without continued access to Category 2 funds we may not be able to afford these beneficial improvements.

We ask that Category 2 funding opportunities continue to be available through 2020 to help us in our network infrastructure upgrades.

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